

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from West Virginia will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask to be heard at the appropriate time on the question of whether this resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will be notified.

Mr. WISE. I thank the Speaker.

CONFERRING STATUS AS AN HONORARY VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ON ZACHARY FISHER

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 46) conferring status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Zachary Fisher.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 46

Whereas the United States has only once before conferred on an individual status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces, when in Public Law 105-67 Congress conferred that status on Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope;

Whereas status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted;

Whereas the lifetime of accomplishments and generosity of Zachary Fisher on behalf of United States military servicemembers, veterans, and their families through a wide range of philanthropic activities fully justifies the conferring of such status;

Whereas Zachary Fisher is himself not a veteran, having attempted to enlist in the Armed Forces to serve his country during World War II, but being informed that he was ineligible due to a preexisting medical condition;

Whereas Zachary Fisher and his wife Elizabeth have as private citizens enhanced the lives of thousands of servicemembers, veterans, and their families through a wide range of philanthropic activities;

Whereas Zachary Fisher has been honored by each of the branches of the Armed Forces, by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and by the major veterans service organizations for projects such as the preservation of the USS INTREPID as a sea-air-space museum in New York harbor, the establishment of the Fisher House program for relatives of critically ill members of the Armed Forces and their families, and the furnishing of scholarships and other financial support to families who have lost a loved one in service to their country; and

Whereas Zachary Fisher has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition of his extraordinary patriotism and philanthropy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) extends its gratitude, on behalf of the American people, to Zachary Fisher for his lifetime of accomplishments and philanthropy on behalf of United States military servicemembers; and

(2) confers upon Zachary Fisher the status of an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 46 is a joint resolution conferring status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Zachary Fisher.

Mr. Fisher was a well-known ardent supporter of the U.S. military personnel and their families. Unfortunately, Mr. Fisher passed away last June. He was the founder of the Fisher Houses at military facilities, as well as on the grounds of the VA medical centers. Servicemembers and veterans or their families can stay at Fisher Houses while receiving medical treatment.

The Fisher Houses are tangible evidence of Zachary Fisher's commitment to servicemen and their veterans, but more important, for the intangible comfort these respite provided during the difficult times for their families.

In addition to the Fisher Houses, Zachary Fisher has established foundations that provided college scholarships to military dependents, and also gave generously to families and military members struck by tragic losses.

Zachary Fisher's efforts on behalf of our men and women in uniform, as well as veterans and their families, have earned the honor we bestow today. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before expressing my strong support for this resolution, I want to take a few moments to make

some brief remarks commending and thanking Jill Cochran.

Jill, as many Members know, is an outstanding individual who has served as a member of the Democratic staff of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. She is a Democratic staff director on the Subcommittee on Benefits, who will be retiring early next month after a career of 25 years. During this time she has been devoted to working with and on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Jill has played a significant role in fashioning much of the major veterans' legislation enacted by Congress during the past 25 years. The list of her major contributions is so long I am unable to recite it in the time available. I will, however, recognize her many accomplishments in a statement in the near future.

She will obviously be missed, but for everything there is a season. It would be easy to think about ourselves at this time and fret about her absence. Instead, we wish her only the best as she embarks on a new path in her life.

At this time I merely want to say, thank you, Jill, for all you have done and accomplished for our Nation's servicemen and women.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of this resolution, which would confer status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Zachary Fisher. I regret that this action on this resolution was not completed before his death earlier this year, but I believe that approval of this joint resolution will be meaningful to his widow, Elizabeth, and to the entire Fisher family. Certainly it would be a gesture of tremendous importance to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces and to our veterans.

To put it simply, Zachary Fisher loved his country. He loved those who served their country through their military service. The contributions made by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher which have enhanced the lives of many military personnel and their families, and have honored their service and sacrifice, are extraordinary.

Mr. Fisher was a remarkable man who lived an extraordinary life. In his statement regarding Mr. Fisher's death, the President said, "Mr. Fisher helped all Americans repay the tremendous debt we owe to our men and women who every day risk their lives to defend our country and to advance the cause of freedom around the world. I am proud to present him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom last Fall."

I am proud to stand in support of House Joint Resolution 46, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 46, which would confer status as an honorary veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces on Zachary Fisher.

I regret that action on this resolution was not completed prior to Mr. Fisher's death earlier this year, but I believe that approval of this

joint resolution will be meaningful to Mr. Fisher's widow, Elizabeth, and to the entire Fisher family. Certainly, it will be a gesture of tremendous importance to the men and women who serve in America's Armed Forces and to America's veterans.

To put it simply, Zachary Fisher loved his country—and he loved those who serve America through their military service. The contributions made by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher which have enhanced the lives of military personnel and their families—and have honored their service and sacrifice—are extraordinary.

Saddened by the devastating effects on Marines and their families of the 1983 terrorist bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, the Fishers established the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Armed Services Foundation.

Through the foundation, the Fishers provided financial assistance to each of the families affected by this terrible tragedy. Subsequently, they established a scholarship program funded by the foundation and, since 1987, more than 700 students have gone to school as a result of the foundation's assistance.

In 1990, the Fishers established the Fisher House Program, providing more than \$15 million to establish comfortable temporary housing for the military families of patients receiving care at military and VA hospitals. More than 25 Fisher Houses have opened their doors and are now available to military families around the country.

The Fishers have also provided the funding for charitable efforts such as the establishment of a child care center at the Camp Pendleton Marine Base and development of the CAMP Program, which provides services for the disabled children of military personnel at Lackland Air Force Base.

The list of additional acts of generosity by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher is almost endless. Mr. Fisher led the effort to save the aircraft carrier *Intrepid* from the scrap heap and contributed more than \$25 million to convert the carrier into the *Intrepid* Sea-Air-Space Museum, located in New York City.

He served as honorary chairman of the board of directors of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and established the annual Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Award for Excellence in Military Medicine.

Zachary Fisher was also a strong supporter of the Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs, the George C. Marshall Foundation, the United Jewish Appeal, and countless other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Zachary Fisher was a remarkable man who lived an extraordinary life. In his statement regarding Mr. Fisher's death, President Clinton said, " * * * Mr. Fisher helped all Americans repay the tremendous debt we owe to the men and women who every day risk their lives to defend our nation and advance the cause of freedom around the world. I was proud to present him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom last fall."

I am proud to stand in support of H.J. Res. 46—and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois

(Mr. HYDE), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, among the pantheon of great American patriots belongs the name of the late Zachary Fisher. His countess, and I mean countless, acts of kindness towards our military and their families over a long and full life are legendary. He went out and bought a carrier, the *Intrepid*, for several millions of dollars, and brought it to New York and turned it into a museum that still operates every day to show people the great exploits of our military.

□ 1500

Beyond what he has done for the military, his fight against the dread disease of Alzheimer's led him to found the Fisher Center for Alzheimer Research in New York, and when this dread disease is conquered it will be Zach Fisher and the medical team he has assembled, along with David Rockefeller and the president of the center, Mr. Michael Stern, who will deserve an important share of the credit.

Zach Fisher lived a long life and he never stopped helping people, caring for people. He had a giant heart, a giant soul that animated one of God's very special people. I grieve his loss but I am so happy that he ever lived and I knew him and he was my friend.

As a veteran, I am very proud to have Zachary Fisher declared through this act, legislative act, an honorary veteran. If anyone should be an honorary veteran, Zach Fisher should be. I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for his thoughtfulness in bringing this forward, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), whose love and affection and concern for Zach Fisher manifests itself in drafting this marvelous resolution. I congratulate them both.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 46 that would confer honorary veteran status on a true American patriot, an individual who supported not only our Armed Forces and the Department of Defense but also the many Americans and their families at home, Zachary Fisher.

Zach was an extraordinary man. He received every single honor our country could bestow on him, save one. He wanted to be a member of the military. He wanted to be a veteran.

The bill before us today, which I authored along with the ranking member of the Defense Committee on Appropria-

tions, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), and the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), named Zachary Fisher an honorary veteran.

This great honor has been given only once before in the history of our great Nation. This act before us, which I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for helping me bring before Congress today, makes Zachary Fisher an honorary veteran. It would have made him tremendously happy because it puts an official seal on what he already was, a member of the military family.

Zachary Fisher had many accomplishments, activities and interests, but his great love was the military. I remember him explaining to me why it was so important to him. He tried to enlist during World War II but was turned down for physical disabilities which he received as a young man working on construction sites. Since he could not serve, he was especially grateful for those who served for him, for us, for our Nation. He spent the rest of his life serving the military in any way he could.

Zach Fisher knew that it was not the accumulation of great wealth which he valued but the judicious use of that wealth for humanity. He often said to me, and I quote, it is not what I make in life but what I give that lives after me, and that lasts for eternity. By that standard, he was tremendously successful.

Zach and Elizabeth Fisher created many foundations and found numerous ways to help the military. He saved the USS *Intrepid* from becoming scrap metal and turned this great ship into a sea-air-space museum in New York City Harbor. His dedication turned the USS *Intrepid* into a nationally-recognized museum with more than 500,000 visitors annually. Through the Fisher Armed Services Foundation he created the first Fisher House in 1990 to allow families to stay near their loved ones who undergo surgery and treatments at military hospitals and veteran medical centers. We all know the financial and emotional strain on a family when a loved one is in the hospital. Fisher Houses give these families a comfortable and affordable option near their loved ones. There are now more than 25 Fisher Houses across the United States from here in Washington, D.C. to San Diego, California. Mr. Fisher further expanded his foundation to provide scholarships to those who have served in the military. He provided scholarships to the sons and daughters of families who have lost a loved one in service so that they could

go to college. More than 700 students have been able to go to college, a goal that might otherwise not have been there for them.

Zach's most recent contribution was to create a partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation for a state of the art research center on Alzheimer's disease at Rockefeller University. In the halls of the Intrepid, there are numerous honors and awards on the walls. From each branch of the armed services, the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs, the major veterans organizations, to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Zach Fisher has been recognized for his contributions to the military. Now today we have the opportunity to give him the one award he desired the most, the honor of being a veteran of the armed services of the United States.

I would like to add to the RECORD the listing of all the veterans organizations that endorse this legislation.

I cannot conclude better than using the words of Zach Fisher's best friend Michael Stern. At Zach's funeral, he said, and I quote, "I sought fitting words to say good-bye to my friend. I could not improve on the words of Ronald Reagan. Well done, soldier."

The following Organizations support H.J. Res. 46:

Air Force Association (AFA), Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), The American Legion Rhinelander East Side Post 6, Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA), Assn. of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS), Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Disabled American Veterans, Commissioned Officers Assn. of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc., CWO and WO Association of the U.S. Coast Guard, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association (MCROA), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), National Military Family Association (NMFA), National Order of Battlefield Commissions (NOBC), Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA), Naval Reserve Association.

Navy League of the United States, Reserve Officers Association (ROA), The Military Chaplains Association of the U.S.A., The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), The Retired Officers Association (TROA), The Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces, United Armed Forces Association, U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Assn., U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, United War Veterans' Council of New York County, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 46, which bestows honorary veteran status upon Mr. Zachary Fisher.

Zach Fisher was a true American hero who spent most of his adult life

working behind the scenes in support of the men and women he loved who served in our Nation's military. It is most fitting today that we grant honorary veteran status to a man who longed to serve our Nation. Unfortunately, a construction injury left Zach unable to serve on active duty. He was turned down by the services because of a serious knee injury when he tried to join the Marine Corps during World War II. Unable to serve on the battlefield, he sought other ways to help those he so envied who served here and abroad, in war and in peacetime.

The American public has probably never heard or read of Zach Fisher's good will and generosity, but he wanted it that way.

When 241 Marines died in the tragic 1983 Beirut bombing, Zach Fisher sent each of the victim's children a \$10,000 check for their college education. The total for the 113 children was \$1,130,000.

When 47 U.S. sailors died in a 1989 accident aboard the USS Iowa, Zach Fisher sent each family who lost a loved one a check for \$25,000 to help with their expenses at a very difficult time in their life.

In all, with no public fanfare, the Fisher Armed Services Foundation has sent out checks to more than 600 families of service members who paid the ultimate price. It was Zach Fisher's way of saying thank you from a grateful nation and from a grateful Fisher family.

His legacy of generosity and patriotism does not end there. Years ago, he learned of the plight of a wife of a seriously ill member of our military who could not afford a hotel room near the Bethesda Naval Medical Center. She had to ride two buses each way just to visit him at the hospital.

Zach came up with the idea to build a house on the hospital's grounds where family members could stay and be near their loved ones in their greatest time of need.

Today, there are 26 Fisher Houses on the grounds of U.S. military and veterans hospitals and two more under construction, including the first one abroad in Germany, where U.S. troops are stationed. These are beautiful homes that allow family members to be together at a most trying time in their lives. It is yet another way Zach Fisher and his family serve those who serve our Nation.

To honor the legacy of courage and bravery with which Americans serve our country, one of Zach Fisher's greatest and proudest achievements was resurrecting the USS Intrepid into a living, floating museum. It took 17 years and more than \$25 million to open the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum, the world's largest marine museum, which is now docked in Manhattan's Hudson River. It is one of New York City's most popular tourist spots, and hosts more than 600,000 visitors annually.

Every May, it has become a New York tradition to kick off Fleet Week activities with a parade of ships from all over the world, usually watched over by Zach Fisher aboard the deck of the Intrepid. Oftentimes, he was joined by former presidents and our Nation's highest ranking military leaders. They all recognize how much Zach Fisher and his wife Elizabeth have given to our Nation's service members. They know his gifts came from the heart. He never sought public recognition for his good deeds, just as those who fought on the ground, in the air and at sea never sought public recognition for their acts of bravery.

For all his quiet yet good work, President Clinton awarded Zach Fisher the 1998 Medal of Freedom, one of our Nation's highest civilian honors.

Mr. Speaker, Zach Fisher's largess went far beyond those who serve in uniform. He loved children and several years ago he learned of a program at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to care for a small population of special children of service members. The Department of Defense brings these children with severe physical problems and learning disorders together at Lackland to meet their special educational needs.

When Zach Fisher learned that this program was housed in two old World War II quonset huts, he decided to do something about it. Today, we have the Admiral Jeremy Boorda Center for Children with Special Needs; a brand new, state-of-the-art facility that provides the best care possible for these children.

One of the two Fisher Houses now under construction will serve as a Children's Inn for the families of children being cared for at the Boorda Center.

In addition to his concern for our Nation's youngest citizens, Zach also was concerned about the terrible toll that Alzheimer's has taken on older Americans. He responded as only he could by establishing the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research at the Rockefeller University in New York. This world renowned facility is sponsoring leading-edge research into the causes of and cures for Alzheimer's disease.

As my colleagues can see, Zach Fisher never responded in a small way to a problem. He confronted problems large and small with the same spirit and energy and he always got results. In the end, those results have meant a better quality of life for the families of service members, for children and for older Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the military coalition which represents all of our Nation's major veterans organizations has endorsed this legislation because they know how much Zach Fisher loved veterans and gave to our service members.

I want to commend my colleague from New York CAROLYN MALONEY, for introducing this

resolution, and my good friend from Illinois HENRY HYDE for joining with me as an original cosponsor as we honor this unique special American. We all share a certain sense of sadness that Zach Fisher died last June before we could complete action on this legislation. His life-long dream was to join those he most loved as a veteran of our U.S. services. Today, for just the second time in our nation's history, we grant that special status as an honorary veteran.

The Military Coalition, which represents all of our nation's major veterans service organizations, has endorsed this legislation because they know how much Zach Fisher loved veterans and gave to our service members.

Mr. Speaker, when I first heard about Zack Fisher, I told many of my colleagues that this person was just too good to be true. There couldn't be anyone doing as much for his nation so quietly and with so little fan fare. It wasn't until I first met Zach Fisher that I found out he was even more kind and caring than the reports I had received. Nothing brought a bigger smile to his face than a hug or handshake from an enlisted service member or from a child visiting the INTREPID.

Today I know Zach Fisher is looking down upon this House with that same glowing smile as a grateful nation says thank you to a true American hero who devoted his life and his generosity to our service members. He now stands shoulder to shoulder with all those past, present, and future who wear the uniform and who will forever be honored as veterans of our great country.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for yielding me this time, and I thank the chairman for getting this resolution to the floor so quickly, and the ranking member for his support, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for this marvelous resolution.

I think we have heard how important and how worthy Zach Fisher was, and without understating those achievements I would like to take a few minutes of the time that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has on the floor today to recognize another person who I think is an honorary member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and that is the staff director of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Democratic side, Jill T. Cochran. She is retiring from this institution after 25 years of service. Many of us have been taught about the benefits that the veterans are due, from Jill Cochran.

□ 1515

I would say her investment in our veterans is legendary. She served for our esteemed colleague, former Member, Congressman Sonny Montgomery, and made a major contribution to the development of the Montgomery G.I. bill.

She helped to formulate the Transition Assistance Program for separating

service members to ease their transition from military to civilian employment. She worked closely on updating the Reemployment Rights for Veterans Program. She has had a great interest in Vocational Rehabilitation Program for Disabled Veterans, just to mention a few of the areas which she has contributed.

She has received awards for her service to veterans for virtually every organization that serves veterans in our Nation. She has worked for such Chairs and ranking members as Bill Hefner, Marvin Leath, Wayne Dowdy, Tim Penny, Sonny Montgomery, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), and when he was a Congressman, Senator TOM DASCHLE.

A mere recitation of Jill's accomplishments do not do her justice. She is a brilliant staff member who is warm and caring, funny and totally charming. She cares deeply about her work, her colleagues, and the Members of Congress for whom she works. But most of all, she cares for our veterans. She, I think, is worthy of the praise of many of us who want to express our gratefulness for her service on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

So I join my colleagues, both on our committee and the Congress as a whole, to thank Jill Cochran for her professionalism, her dedication, her contribution to the veterans of our Nation. We will miss her.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman STUMP), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for their leadership on this very, very important resolution today.

I come here today to also honor our good friend, Zachary Fisher. Everything has been said that probably can be said about his wonderful dedication to our veterans. Without question, there was no greater hero in the eyes of veterans, of current active-duty personnel, of all the military apparatus than Zachary Fisher.

He not only led the fight, he put his money where his mouth was. He dedicated so much financial resources to American sailors and infantrymen that it is just beyond belief.

But another side of Zachary Fisher I wanted to articulate was the love he had for his friends and his family. His wife Elizabeth, many have spoken about today, was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Many people in his financial position would be able to afford around-the-clock nurses, which he did, and would have been able to keep his wife in a quiet, private place. But Zachary insisted at every function that Elizabeth accompany him to get whatever joy of life remained for that wonderful woman.

Whether we were at La Cirque in New York or the Manalapan Club in Palm Beach, he always insisted that Elizabeth be there at his side, at his table. He would always at any event, whenever they were showering love and affection on Zachary, would stop and say, had it not been for Elizabeth, I could not have done all I have done. He honored and loved his wife and dedicated so much resources to the fight for a cure for Alzheimer's, again a true credit to him.

Billy White is his chief of staff. I know he was like a son to Zachary, and he made Zachary's last years on this Earth exceedingly comfortable. He took care of every arrangement, every detail, and made certain that Zachary wanted for nothing. I know he left this world appreciative of the fact that Billy White served him so capably as chief of staff for his permanent office as well as the chief cheerleader for the Intrepid.

We mentioned the Intrepid, which has seen many great, great extravaganzas on behalf of charities throughout New York, led to the revitalization of the waterfront and the Westside Highway, a phenomenal achievement by one man, one individual to honor the great ship Intrepid.

Mike Stern was mentioned, again a wonderful ally, close advisor, trusted friend who worked tirelessly to make certain Zachary's wishes on every project that he undertook were completed to great success and to great satisfaction.

So as we pay tribute to this veteran, more than anything else than we just speak the name Zachary Fisher, let us hope it instills in the young people of America that freedom is not free, that men and women have fought for the right for us to debate on this House floor, for us to be considered the greatest Nation on Earth because we have the strength and military superiority, came because of people like Zach Fisher who all, while they could not serve personally, dedicated themselves financially to make certain those that did were rewarded, not only in spirit, but in deed.

I know others join me today in saluting this veteran, Zachary Fisher, as we honor and confer on him this status. He has deserved every mention today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and we salute him in heaven and thank him for his work here on Earth.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today, this House honors Mr. Zachary Fisher for his generous and tireless efforts on behalf of America's servicemen and women and veterans. I never knew Mr. Fisher personally, but his spirit of gratitude for our veterans and their sacrifices symbolizes America's debt of gratitude owed to all other veterans.

In the spirit of Mr. Fisher, I also want to say thank you to another citizen who has dedicated her adult lifetime to service for our veterans, someone who is about to retire, my friend, the veterans' friend, Mrs. Jill T. Cochran.

For 25 years, Mrs. Cochran has worked as a key staff member on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. For the past 15 years, Mrs. Cochran has been the Democratic staff director of the VA Subcommittee on Benefits, formerly the Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment and Housing. It is amazing that, in this capacity, she has worked with nine subcommittee chairmen and ranking members.

Millions of veterans, whether they know it by name or not, have benefited from Mrs. Cochran's appreciation for and love of veterans.

Her quiet but effective fingerprints can be found on such major programs as the Montgomery G.I. bill, the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act, vocational rehabilitation for service, disabled veterans, and oversight of veterans preference in Federal jobs, only to mention a few.

Mrs. Cochran has received more awards from veterans' organizations than any of us has time to list. But I have to believe that, as appreciative as I know Jill must be of these awards, I have got a feeling that her greatest satisfaction in her 25 years of work for veterans would be that her father, a distinguished veteran of World War II and former chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, would be proud of her.

Mr. Teague, Tiger Teague, affectionately known as Mr. Veteran in this House for so many years, is now in his final resting place next to General Omar Bradley, the people's general, in Arlington National Cemetery.

But I have to think that his spirit is soaring today with the belief, the understanding that his daughter has carried on the Teague family tradition of service to America's veterans.

To Jill Cochran, my friend, I say, thank you. To Mrs. Freddie Teague, Jill's mother, I say, Job well done. To my political mentor, Tiger Teague, I say that his spirit and legacy lives on through his family and his daughter.

My colleagues, it is amazing to think that, in a few days, for the first time since 1946, there will not be a Teague in the U.S. Capitol, fighting for veterans in association with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. But I know that the Teagues' love of veterans and their impact upon them will last far into the 21st century.

To Zachary Fisher, to Jill Teague Cochran, let me say, on behalf of all of my colleagues, thank you for not letting our veterans ever be forgotten.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 46, to confer honorary veteran status upon Zachary Fisher.

Zachary Fisher made his career in the construction business and contributed some of the most important buildings to the New York City skyline. But his passion was for the men and women who served this Nation in the military. He championed this cause up until his death earlier this year.

Zack Fisher was unable to serve in the military himself because of a leg injury sustained in a construction accident, but he became perhaps this Nation's most devoted advocate for the armed forces. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to causes that supported and honored the veterans and service members of the United States military. He served as honorary chairman of the board of directors of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Coast Guard Foundation.

He established the annual Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Award for Excellence in Military Medicine. He founded the Fisher House to build homes for families of hospitalized military personnel. He gave generously to numerous philanthropic organizations that aid service men and women.

But perhaps his most important legacy was the creation of the Intrepid Museum Foundation. In 1978, he spearheaded an effort to save the battle-scarred aircraft carrier Intrepid from the scrap heap and turned it instead into the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in 1982. Located on the Hudson River in my district, the Intrepid is a floating museum that hosts over 500,000 visitors each year of all ages and from all parts of the world. It educates thousands of school children each year and offers after-school and summer programs as well as vocational training and counseling.

His tireless advocacy of causes related to the U.S. armed forces have earned him the Horatio Alger Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor.

Mr. Speaker, Zachary Fisher gave his life giving to men and women who serve this Nation in the armed forces, even though he himself was not able to. I know of no better way to honor his memory than to confer upon him the status of honorary veteran. I myself consider myself privileged to have known him.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following letters honoring Zack Fisher, written by political and military leaders, as follows:

JUNE 7, 1999.

Mrs. ELIZABETH FISHER,
Intrepid Museum Foundation, New York, NY.

DEAR ELIZABETH: It was with an extremely heavy heart that I heard of Zachary's passing. Please know that Zandi and I are praying for you and your entire family as you struggle to cope with this tragedy. I have no illusion that my personal pain is in any way comparable to your own. I do, however, want you to know that Zandi and I, and your entire Marine Corps family, are grieving with you and want to help in any way we can. We are here for you. If you need anything—anything at all—do not hesitate to ask.

Zachary was one of the greatest patriots this country has ever known. He did so much for our service men and women; it is difficult to put into words what his life meant to us. He was the quintessential "good man" and a fine American. We shall—all of us—miss him very much.

I am so very sorry for your loss. May God bless you and hold you in the palms of His hands.

Sincerely,

C.C. KRULAK,
*General, U.S. Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps.*

CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,
June 29, 1999.

Mrs. ELIZABETH FISHER,
Intrepid Museum Foundation, New York, NY.

DEAR ELIZABETH: Garland and I were saddened to hear of the recent passing of your beloved Zachary. He was a great friend and a truly generous patriot. Our lives are enriched by his friendship and example.

Garland joins me in sending our deepest personal sympathy, and want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. God Bless.

Sincerely,

JAY L. JOHNSON,
Admiral, U.S. Navy.

AIR COMBAT COMMAND,
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER,
Langley A.F. Base, VA, June 23, 1999.

Mrs. ELIZABETH FISHER,
*The Intrepid Museum Foundation,
New York, NY.*

DEAR ELIZABETH: On behalf of the men and women of Air Combat Command and the many lives touched by a lifetime of selfless dedication, I offer our heartfelt sympathy on the passing of your beloved husband, Zach. We mourn with you and offer our most sincere condolence in this time of sorrow.

Zach served as a pillar of strength and a beacon of hope. A grateful nation is indebted for the many patriotic and charitable contributions. These noble causes were each founded in a genuine concern for the welfare of his fellow Americans. Though he can no longer be with us, he will forever live in our minds and hearts.

While words cannot begin to ease the pain, we wish you to know that all of us are deeply concerned with what you and the entire Fisher family are going through. We hope that our prayers can provide some small comfort in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

RALPH E. EBERHART,
General, USAF Commander.

THE COMMANDANT OF THE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,
Washington, DC, June 22, 1999.

Mrs. ELIZABETH FISHER,
The Intrepid Museum Foundation,
New York, NY.

DEAR ELIZABETH: Kay and I speak for the entire Coast Guard family when we offer our condolences to you and the entire Fisher family. Zach was truly an angel on earth, and we will miss him daily.

My personal goal in life will always be to leave evidence of good will behind me. There was no better example for me to follow than Zach. Please take comfort in the reality that literally thousands of lives have been left the better because he cared and acted.

Our fondest memory may be the honor you both gave us to be included at your 52nd wedding anniversary celebration. Watching you dance and love each other so completely offered us great insight about what marriage and devotion should be all about.

You will be kept in our prayers.

Love,

JIM AND KAY LOY.

JUNE 7, 1999.

Mr. WILLIAM BRYAN WHITE,
Chief of Staff, Office of Zachary Fisher, New York, NY.

DEAR BILL: All of us, of course, are deeply saddened by the loss of Zachary, but share your conviction that he has gone on to a rich reward.

Mouza and I ask that you send our thoughts and prayer on to the family and to all of you who loved him.

We shall never see his likes again.

Sincerely,

E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.,
Admiral, USN (Ret.).

CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
Washington, DC, June 4, 1999.

Mrs. ZACHARY FISHER,
New York, NY.

DEAR ELIZABETH: Please accept Carolyn's and my sincere condolences on the death of Zachary. We are both greatly saddened and profoundly pained. On behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces and Joint Chiefs of Staff, please accept heartfelt sympathy at his passing.

Zach was not only a personal friend, he was a tremendous ally of America's military men and women, and their families. An inspiring leader and a crusader for all that is right about America, he was a pillar of strength for the countless soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen he helped over the years. Like the sailors of his beloved *Intrepid*, as long as men and women go down to the sea in ships, he will be remembered as the champion of our military families and a great American, and he will be sorely missed.

For all his greatness, for all his magnanimity, and for all his generosity, I know that he considered his crowning achievement and grandest blessing to be his long and loving marriage to you.

May the loving memories of his life be a source of comfort to you and your family. With profound regret for your loss, Carolyn's and my prayers are with you and your family.

Sincerely,

HENRY H. SHELTON,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

TO THE INTREPID FAMILY: The death of Zachary Fisher, an American patriot, is a

great loss to this country and the Department of Defense. Mr. Fisher's generosity to service members has been enduring and overwhelming and, for a private citizen, perhaps unequaled. His actions went beyond simple philanthropy; they spoke to the true needs of men and women in uniform. Along with his wife, Elizabeth, Mr. Fisher was widely known for standing with military families in their darkest hours. In the midst of tragedies like the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut and the USS Iowa gun turret explosion, the Fishers provided financial assistance to over 340 of these grieving families. They also aided service members and their families who could not afford college tuition by awarding over 700 scholarships.

One of the Fishers' most enduring legacies is the 26 Fisher Houses they build around the country at a major military and Veterans Administration hospitals over the past nine years. These temporary living facilities have been "homes away from home" for tens of thousands of families who could not otherwise afford local lodging while tending loved ones seriously injured or undergoing major medical procedures. Mr. Fisher also has pledged money for military child-care centers and programs for disabled children of military personnel.

Zachary Fisher shone a light on military history and helped inspire new generations of service members with the Intrepid Museum, the aircraft carrier that was on the verge of being scrapped. This vessel became the foundation of New York's Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum, which hosts over 500,000 visitors annually.

Mr. Fisher's deeds stand as symbols of both our nation's support and his love for the military men and women who serve America. For these and other deeds of service, President Clinton in 1998 conferred upon Mr. Fisher the Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian award. We have lost not only a supporter, but a very dear friend. His contributions will live on, and his legacy will be generations of gratitude from America's military community.

WILLIAM S. COHEN,
Office of the Secretary, DOD

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY,
Washington, DC, June 8, 1999.

Mr. M. ANTHONY FISHER,
Senior Partner, Fisher Brothers, New York, NY.

Dear TONY: Eva and I offer our deepest condolence on the death of your uncle.

The men and women of the U.S. Army and their families, who have benefited so much from the tremendous generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, will forever hold his memory dear. I hope that you will find great comfort in the knowledge that his legacy lives on at our installations around the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sincerely,

LOUIS CALDERA.

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 1999.

Mrs. ZACHARY FISHER,
Intrepid Museum Foundation,
New York, NY.

DEAR MRS. FISHER: On behalf of all the men and women of the United States Air Force, I want to express our deepest sympathy to you and your family at the passing of your beloved husband. America's men and women in uniform have been the beneficiaries of Zachary's unwavering patriotism and total devotion to his country. While he will be greatly missed, he will never be for-

gotten. He will always remain in the hearts of those he helped in their time of need. While many people do impressive deeds, Zachary's legacy of caring eclipses all.

Although there is little that can be said to lessen your grief, Monnie and I extend our heartfelt condolences. You are in the thoughts and prayers of a very grateful Air Force family.

Sincerely,

F. WHITTEN PETERS,
Acting Secretary of the Air Force.

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
Washington, DC, June 7, 1999.

Mrs. ELIZABETH FISHER,
Intrepid Museum Foundation,
New York, NY.

DEAR ELIZABETH: Dede and I learned of Zach's passing with great sadness and want to express our heartfelt condolences. He was truly one of the Defense Department's most distinguished and respected friends, and will be sorely missed. During this most difficult time, may the knowledge that countless uniformed personnel and their families have and will continue to be blessed by his life of dedicated service provide comfort to you and your family.

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything at all that Dede and I can do to help, please don't hesitate to call on us.

Most sincerely,

JOSEPH W. RALSTON,
General, USAF.

UNITED STATES ARMY,
THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
July 8, 1999.

Mrs. ZACHARY FISHER,
Intrepid Museum Foundation,
New York, NY.

DEAR MRS. FISHER: Patty and I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to you. The death of Zachary Fisher is a great loss to America's Army. The contributions he made to the welfare of soldiers and their families is a great part of his legacy. It is a legacy that will live on through the many foundations he established that will continue to serve not only the military but all of America.

The thoughts and prayers of soldiers all over the world are with the entire Fisher family.

Respectfully,

ERIC K. SHINSEKI,
General, United States Army.

JUNE 11, 1999.

Ms. SUNNY KENOSKY,
Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum,
New York, NY.

DEAR SUNNY: Pat and I were mortified that we simply were unable to attend Zach's service on June 7. Unfortunately we were hosts of a similar service here in Washington for a deceased long time employee and could not change the circumstances.

Be aware that you and the family are in our prayers at this difficult time. You, of course, can be very proud of Zack who was above all a patriot and philanthropist of unmatched generosity.

Pat and I were proud to have known Zack. If feasible, please convey our condolences to Elizabeth.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER HAIG.

JUNE 9, 1999.

WILLIAM BRYAN WHITE, ESQ.:

DEAR MR. WHITE: I was greatly saddened to receive your fax telling me of Mr. Fisher's

death. I would be most grateful if you would pass on to his family my deepest sympathy at their loss.

I shall always remember my own visit to the Intrepid Museum. Mr. Fisher was an inspiration to all those who knew him and his infectious enthusiasm brought history to life. His remarkable achievement in preserving such a vital part of the past as a reminder to future generations of the sacrifice made by the United States armed forces will be a permanent memorial to him.

With all kind thought and sympathies,

Your sincerely,

MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 46, legislation to confer honorary veterans status on Zachary Fisher. Designating Zachary Fisher an honorary veteran offers Congress an opportunity to express our gratitude to an individual who has done so much for our country and for those who fight to protect our freedom.

We also give thanks and recognition to his wife, Elizabeth, and his family for their lifetime support of the United States armed forces.

Zachary Fisher selflessly gave his time, energy, and strength to the country that he loved very much. As the United States became involved in World War II, Zack Fisher quit his job in the construction industry with the hopes of joining the armed forces, but was denied enlistment due to a leg injury.

Being unable to join the armed forces was devastating to Zack Fisher. However, it did not take him long to find another way to participate in the war effort. He used his construction know-how to build coastal defenses along our United States coast along with the Army Corps of Engineers.

After the war, Zack Fisher achieved great success in the construction industry, helping to shape the skyline of New York City. Despite being unable to serve in the military, Zack Fisher decided to share his success with those who served on the battlefield to protect our freedom and was especially generous in helping the families of those who died for our country.

Mr. Fisher spearheaded an effort to preserve the USS Intrepid as a floating museum honoring American veterans. The Intrepid, which is now permanently docked in Manhattan, commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of our own forces and is visited by hundreds of thousands of Americans each year.

Mr. Fisher, along with his wife, also established the Elizabeth and Zachary Fisher Armed Services Foundation to provide financial assistance to families of those who gave their lives in service to our country. The foundation also provides scholarships to the children of those heroes.

In 1990, the Fishers were told the story of a wife of veterans who could not afford to stay at a hotel near the VA hospital where her husband was receiving treatment. Inspired by this, the

Fishers built homes near veterans hospitals designed to keep family members comfortable and to be close to their loved ones. Despite this generosity, Mr. Fisher never stepped into the limelight. He chose to let his work and his gifts speak for themselves.

Mr. Fisher never stopped working for our Nation's veterans until his death last summer at the age of 88.

□ 1530

Mr. Speaker, Zachary Fisher's generosity and patriotism is an inspiration to all of us. Congress should recognize his legacy of respect for those who protect our freedom by passing this legislation and conferring honorary veteran status to Zachary Fisher.

Mr. Speaker, Zachary Fisher was a personal friend of this country; he was a fine American, patriot, and a longtime friend to my family and my father, who knew him when he served in the Bush and Reagan administrations. I also greatly appreciate knowing Zachary Fisher.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank also, in particular, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for sponsoring this legislation, as well as the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP); and I would like to thank the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for working with me on this to bring it to the House floor.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and on behalf of the family, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, Anthony Fisher, Richard Fisher, Arnold Fisher, Michael Stern, Billy White, and many others, I would like to place in the RECORD, along with my colleagues in this bipartisan effort, letters from President Clinton, former President Bush, the former First Lady, Nancy Reagan, prominent religious leaders, political leaders, and many, many friends and supporters.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, June 9, 1999.

ELIZABETH FISHER,

One Intrepid Square, West 46th & 12th Avenue, New York, NY.

DEAR ELIZABETH: We were so saddened to learn of Zachary's death and wanted to extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family during this difficult time.

As demonstrated by Zachary's remarkable career and extraordinary awards such as the Presidential Citizens Medal and the National Medal of Freedom, he was a noble and wonderful individual who well deserved his reputation as a patriot and humanitarian. His contributions to our country are an example for us all. From his support to American armed forces and their families, to his distinguished commitment against the struggle of Alzheimer's disease, he'll long be remembered and deeply missed by those who were privileged to know him and to be inspired by his generosity and service.

With lasting gratitude and respect to Zachary's accomplishments, we send our

heartfelt condolences to you, Larry, Ginny, and all of your family. We'll be keeping you all in our prayers.

Sincerely,

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON.
BILL CLINTON.

GEORGE BUSH,

June 6, 1999.

DEAR ELIZABETH, Your husband Zach, our friend Zach, was just about the kindest most generous man I ever met. Besides all that he was what I would call a genuine patriot.

None of us who believe in and back our armed forces will ever forget all he did in support of the military and their families.

Barbara and I will never forget his many kindnesses to us. We feel we have lost a dear friend.

In these days of sadness and grief we send you our most sincere and respectful condolences.

GEORGE BUSH.

OFFICE OF NANCY REAGAN,

June 7, 1999.

Mrs. ZACHARY FISHER,

1 Intrepid Square, West 46th Street & 12th Avenue, New York, N.Y.

DEAR ELIZABETH, Ronnie and I were so sorry to learn about Zachary's death last Friday. After fifty six years of love, marriage and partnership that knew no bounds, there are certainly no words to ease the pain at this difficult time. However, we want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Zachary Fisher was truly a remarkable man, who loved life and served as an inspiration to many. He rose from humble beginnings, worked hard for many years and then, when he could have taken an easy retirement, he began a whole new career of "giving." Zach gave and gave and just when everyone else thought there was no more to give, he always came through again.

There are so many examples, and although Zach was never looking for the credit or even a pat on the back, we all know the truth. It is because of him that young people have attended college with badly needed scholarships, the historically important *Intrepid* has been preserved, our nation's military bases are filled with Fisher Houses to aid military families in times of medical emergencies and thousands of Alzheimer's victims have been given hope for the future. Zachary Fisher made a difference—and because of this we should never forget him.

Elizabeth, on a personal note, we will always cherish our evening on the *Intrepid* in September, 1993. Ronnie said that evening that Zachary Fisher was an American hero and there's no question that is true. He loved our country and her people as much as anyone could. If we could be with you today as you honor Zach's life, I know that Ronnie would be proud, as the former Commander in Chief, to salute Zach one last time and tell him, "Job well done, soldier."

Please know that we are praying for you at this time.

Sincerely,

NANCY REAGAN.

Mr. BILL WHITE, CHIEF OF STAFF TO ZACHARY FISHER

Good morning Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mrs. Ginny Ross and the entire Fisher family. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we at *Intrepid* wish to welcome all of you. We thank you for taking the time to be part of this event. Today, we gather to pay tribute to our beloved Chairman, Founder, and above all, our friend—Zachary Fisher.

You will shortly hear from members of Mr. Fisher's family and from those whose lives he has touched. His family felt it appropriate to hold this service here at the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum. Fearless, brave, and courageous are words that describe this ship. They are also words that describe the man we honor. Zachary Fisher—you are *Intrepid*.

Mr. Fisher often quoted the philosopher Kahlil Gibran, who said, "He who gives of material things gives nothing . . . But he who gives of himself gives all." Zachary Fisher gave his all to everything he was involved with and to everyone he cared about.

I was reminded by Ken Tomlinson at one of those famous lunches at the Twenty-One Club eight years ago that Zachary said, "See how easily this breaks?" snapping a single wooden match. "Now try to break these," he said handing me a grouping of seven matches. Held together, they could not be broken. "It's the same with family," Zachary said. "If the family sticks together, no one can break you . . . It is a lesson my father taught us many years ago."

So it is fitting that last night at the chapel after talking with Sunnie, Anne and Tony, there are three important things with Zachary right now. There is a picture of him and Elizabeth, because no one was more important than Elizabeth. A picture of all of the Fisher brothers, because no one was more important than them. And a piece of the wooden flight deck of *Intrepid* from 1943 from which one of the people here carved out a mini *Intrepid* carrier. It's about five inches long. Two of the former crew members who served on this very ship during World War II and are here today signed the bottom of it. Zachary is holding that right now.

I hope that today when you leave this special place dedicated to the nation that Zachary loved so much, you carry with you the memory of this very special individual—someone who has truly touched all of our lives and reinforced for us the thought that God really does create extraordinary people. Zachary, it has truly been an honor to represent you the past eight years. You are my inspiration, my friend and my hero. I will never forget you, and I will always be grateful to you for allowing me to be part of your life.

At this time, I would like to introduce our Master of Ceremonies, a longtime friend of Zachary Fisher, and a man who truly needs no introduction, Mr. Walter Cronkite. As Tex McCrary says, "Mr. Cronkite, the bridge is yours."

MR. WALTER CRONKITE, MASTER OF CEREMONIES/SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, CBS NEWS

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to *Intrepid* today. We are glad that you could all join us for today's ceremony. It is most appropriate that we gather on board *Intrepid* today, because this ship meant so much to Zachary. When he undertook the mission to save this ship from the scrapyard, he launched himself on a course that would eventually make Elizabeth and him our country's most generous supporters of the men and women of the Armed Forces. He cared deeply for the young people who are willing to put their lives on the line every day to defend our nation and the principles we all hold so dear. It is heartwarming to see that we have been joined today by America's senior military leadership, along with hundreds of Zachary's other friends. Thank you for being with us.

THE HONORABLE HENRY J. HYDE, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Distinguished friends, guests, the Fisher family and, especially, Elizabeth, I just have

two simple ideas I would like to assert. If everyone for whom Zachary Fisher performed a loving service were to bring one blossom and put it on his casket, he would sleep under a wilderness of flowers.

In 1666, London was devastated by a terrible fire, almost wiped out, and out of the ashes a genius named Christopher Wren, another builder, arose and almost singlehandedly rebuilt London. His crowning achievement was the Cathedral of St. Paul. If you go in the back, beneath the floor, he is buried. And you kick the dust away—the Latin words "Se requiris monumentum circumspice"—"If you would seek his monument, look around." That applies perfectly to Zachary. If you would seek his monument, look at the *Intrepid*, look at the Fisher Houses, look at the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research. Look at every serviceman and servicewoman all over the globe and you see his monument.

This is a time for sorrow, for lamentation, for grief, but it also is a time for thanksgiving. We should thank God that such a man lived and we knew him.

RABBI JUDITH LEWIS, TEMPLE ISRAEL

Zachary Fisher wore the name of a Biblical prophet of ancient Israel, Zachariah. Zachariah, the Biblical prophet, lived during the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jews had been granted permission to return to their promised land to rebuild their sacred shrine in their capital city. Zachariah, the Prophet, spoke the language of builders. He described the technical aspects of constructing that major edifice.

At the same time, he had a universal Messianic vision of religion. "These are the things that you must do," said Zachariah. "Speak truthfully with your neighbor. Execute the judgment of truth and of peace within your gates. Let no one devise evil in your heart against your neighbor nor approve of false oaths."

Then he prophesied the one God of Israel would have dominion over all the world. Zachariah was the author of a famous passage with which we close every worship service to this day. He said, "On that day the Lord will be One and His name will be One."

If we live the ideals of our religion, then all people will eventually recognize that we all share one creator. Zachary Fisher lived through the rebuilding of the modern State of Israel. His family has been among the most generous supporters of the homeland of the Jewish people. Yet Zachary was a man of the Diaspora. He was an American, a proud patriot. He believed in the ideals of this country, the ideals of equality, opportunity, freedom and justice.

He loved the military not because of its might and power but because of the values this country cherishes, because of the ideals of American democracy, ideals that are worth sacrificing our lives to protect. Zachary Fisher stood in awe of those who were willing to place their own lives on the line to defend others, to fight for what he believed was right. His admiration and reverence for heads of state, for politicians and officials, for military leaders and rulers of nations, for people with the power to change the world was palpable, genuine and sincere.

For Zachary Fisher was a man of faith, a true idealist who gloried in the fact that he could demonstrate his commitments in grand public gestures. But the motivation behind those gestures was a quiet, sincere, idealistic belief in the power of humanity to cure the evils of this world. In his memory may we commit our lives to that task.

God, you have been our refuge in every generation, before the mountains came into being, before you brought forth the earth and the world. From eternity to eternity, you are God. You return us to dust, decreeing, "Return O mortal ones," for in your sight a thousand years are as yesterday, when it has passed as a watch in the night. You engulf us in sleep. We are like grass that renews itself. At daybreak it flourishes anew; at dusk it withers and dries up.

The span of our life may be three score years and ten or, given strength, four score years or more, but the best of those years have trouble and sorrow. They pass by speedily and we are in darkness. Teach us, therefore, so to number our days that we may attain a heart of wisdom. Turn to us, O God; show mercy to your servants. Satisfy us at daybreak with your steadfast love that we may sing for joy all our days. Let your deeds be seen by your servants, your glory by their children. May your favor, oh God, be upon us. Establish also the work of our hands that it may long endure.

MR. MICHAEL STERN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, FISHER CENTER FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Zachary often told me that the measure of a man's success was not the wealth he accumulated during his lifetime, but the good that he did that lived on after him. By that measure he was extraordinarily successful. Zachary did not limit himself to grand deeds, though there were many.

During the war in the Pacific, the *Intrepid* was hit by a Kamikaze plane. Burning fuel oil doused a crew in a gun tub. A handful of sailors on deck threw themselves into the inferno to help save their burning comrades. The heroic sailors were awarded the Navy Cross—all but one; he was black. He received an inferior award. For fifty years he sought to rectify the error. His story finally reached Zach Fisher. At that year's Fleet Week dinner, Ronald Reagan pinned the Navy Cross on his chest.

President Reagan concluded his speech that night by extolling Zachary Fisher and saying, "As former Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, I say, 'Well done, soldier!'" There was a thunderous applause and hardly a dry eye.

I have been asked many times why Zach has concentrated on the military. The answer is simple. Zach tried to enlist but was turned down for physical disabilities. Since he couldn't serve himself, he spent a lifetime serving those who served for him—and for us.

There is now a bill before Congress to name Zachary Fisher an honorary veteran. This has only been bestowed once before in the history of our nation. The bill was presented by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney with the backing of the powerful Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Bill Young. Both are seated amongst our mourners. This act of Congress would have made him justly proud, because it puts an official seal on what he already was—a member of the military family.

Zach has been my friend for almost half a century. We have worked together in the foundation for many years and I am proud to have stood tall in his shadow. I sought fitting words to say goodbye to my friend; I could not improve on the words of Ronald Reagan—"Well done, soldier!"

MR. ARNOLD FISHER, NEPHEW OF ZACHARY FISHER

I am privileged to say a few words about my Uncle Zach. Although much will be said

about Zach, my father, Larry, and their brother, Martin, and how they started as hard working bricklayers and contractors, and others will focus on the growth of Fisher Brothers into one of the premier real estate partnerships in the country, I feel that a more personal testimonial to Zach is to share with you some of my thoughts.

Our business is known for its rough and tough nature. Building on Manhattan Island is demanding, frustrating and difficult in the best of times. The men who build modern New York had to be equally tough or they would have failed. The Fisher brothers were, and are, no different. That make Zach Fisher's emergence as a man recognized by presidents, prime ministers, generals, admirals and the common, everyday soldier, sailor, airmen, marine and coast guardsman as a man of uncommon compassion all the more unique.

While most men blessed with the good fortune of a Zach Fisher would have settled into a life of leisure and luxury during their later years, Uncle Zach found an entire new focus for his life—His military family and friends. While his contemporaries were golfing and cruising, Zach spent many of his weekends aboard his beloved *Intrepid*, hosting parties for the visiting men and women in uniform, chairing memorial services for those who has given their last full measure in our nation's service and in general, ensuring that our nation's armed forces would never be forgotten.

Whether it was the welcome home of the Vietnam veterans or the celebration of Fleet Week that he initiated, Zach loved the company of young men and women of the United States military. Zach had his close friends among generals and admirals but it was to the everyday soldier, sailor, airmen, marine and coast guardsman that he devoted his full energy.

He built 26 Fisher Houses adjacent to military hospitals across the country for a pure and simple reason—Zach wanted the service families to have a clean, comfortable home in which to wait for the recovery of their loved ones. Whether in war or peace, if events claimed the life of one of more of his military family, Zach immediately established scholarships to ensure that the children of the military would not be forgotten.

In all ways and at all times, Zach was here for his military family. Even the accolade of "America's foremost military philanthropist" fails to capture the love and passion that motivated him. Others could do good work but Zach was taking care of his family. Zach's love and compassion were nowhere more evident than his complete devotion to this wife, Elizabeth. Wherever Zach went, always at his side was Elizabeth. And as Elizabeth's battle with her illness became more demanding, Zach intensified his partnership in the battle. He founded one of the foremost research efforts in the fight to find a cure for Alzheimer's. Until his last day, his love for Elizabeth and his complete devotion to her never waned; it grew. Zach's commitment to his wife is an example to all of us.

So what of my Uncle Zach? Chiseled out of the granite of the New York construction business, Zach was the beacon of kindness and gentleness that is so rare in America today. He touched millions through his generosity and compassion. He brought grace to our lives. He will be missed. I will miss him.

Zach, thank you for showing us the way, for we will follow.

MR. RICHARD FISHER, NEPHEW OF ZACHARY FISHER

To all of us gathered here, Zachary Fisher was a monument of a man. But rather than

speaking of the monument, I would like to take a moment to speak of the man himself. To quote someone wiser than I, "This was a spacious man who carried a kind of innocence that had no tincture of naivete in it." There was nothing narrow or confined, or confining, about Zachary.

Horatio Alger could not have written a more dramatic, unbelievable story of a bricklayer who became an immensely successful businessman, who then effectively retired to start an entirely new career in the gracious and generous service of his country, for which he won the Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian award. But in the spaciousness of his character we should also remember that he was for his brother, Larry, his best and dearest friend. For us, his nieces and nephews, he was our dearest, kindest, gentlest, beloved uncle.

What we need to understand about this man's character and vision was that while it played out on the immense stage of our country—whether through the *Intrepid*, The Fisher Houses and the Alzheimer's Foundation, to name just a few—it continued without abatement to play out within our family with equal energy and grace.

The public praise of this extraordinary human being you already know and will hear again. Know how well deserved it is. But that other dimension of this man—our brother, our husband, our uncle—is equally monumental, because when he moved onto that much bigger stage, he will still retained his delightful innocence, his vision and his pride in and for our family.

Zachary taught and gave us character. He brought us the spaciousness of his dignity, together with the pure innocence of his ideals and principles. For that we cannot thank him enough, nor honor him sufficiently. He shall be missed, most of all for the pure sweetness of his character.

MR. M. ANTHONY FISHER, NEPHEW OF ZACHARY FISHER

Today is, in many ways, a celebration of the extraordinary accomplishments of a great man, Zach Fisher. He was an exemplary philanthropist, patriot, businessman, and a true gentleman. He has been acknowledged as such many times over with the numerous honors and medals that have been awarded over the years. The most impressive, of course, is the Medal of Freedom, which the President gave him this past September.

There are a few awards that don't exist that I wish did. The first one would be the Golden Mensch Award. I am sure all of the members of my family who are sitting here today would agree that one of my Uncle Zach's greatest qualities was that he was always willing to lend a sympathetic ear. This was especially comforting to know on a day when you had been in to see my other beloved uncle, Larry, and you had suffered a well-deserved tongue lashing. It's true. Zach was always there to pick up the pieces and to put things in perspective.

Together, Larry and Zach were a formidable team. They took the concept of good cop/bad cop to new heights and, in doing so, taught us much, including the invaluable lesson of teamwork amongst family. This notion of family was so strongly ingrained in Zach that it was the foundation upon which his life's ideology was built. I will always remember the day, very early on in my career at Fisher Brothers, that Zach called me into his office. Similar to the experience that Bill White had, he said to me, "Try and break this match". I took it, and I did. Then he

handed me a bundle and said, "Now try and break this bundle". When I couldn't, he said "Now, that's family for you. If we stick together, we will stay strong."

I believe that, throughout the years, I have learned much from Uncle Zach's example—even more than his words. It was never necessary to ask him for help, because he was always two steps ahead of you. For that lesson, I say, "Thank you, Zach."

So, today, as we review the life of a man who I truly loved, I would like to bestow upon him one last honor: it would be a medal for a life well lived.

HIS EMINENCE JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR, THE ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

It must be providential that just about an hour ago I was privileged to receive in my residence Rabbi Ruden, Jim Ruden, together with Members of the Board of the American Jewish Committee. They had come to give me a check for \$100,000 to be transmitted to the Catholic Relief Services to assist in the building of a Catholic school in Macedona for refugees from Kosovo.

I told them very explicitly when they gave me the check that I was coming here and that this was the kind of thing that Zach Fisher has been inspiring for years and years and years with absolutely no distinction of race, creed, color or any other differentiating characteristic.

When I think of him, I think of the words of Tennyson, "Shall I ask the brave soldier who dies by my side in the cause of mankind if our creeds agree?"

I think, too, of a little story that old time newspaperman, George Sekowski, once wrote about a young sailor named Joe Callahan. Joe Callahan's brother, Jim, had been killed during one of the wars in the Pacific. When his ship was near that particular island, he asked the lieutenant if he could go ashore to visit the grave of his brother, who was buried there.

The lieutenant not only permitted it but went with him. He arrived in the cemetery, found the grave of his brother, Jim, Jim Callahan, Irish Catholic. Beside Jim Callahan's grave on one side was the grave of Luther Brown, Lutheran, and on the other side was the grave of Isaac Goldberg, Jew.

Young Joe Callahan said a prayer over each grave. Then he looked up at the lieutenant. He said, "Gee, Lieutenant, my brother always did keep swell company."

Anyone who was ever privileged to spend even a few moments in the presence of Zach Fisher knew that he was truly in swell company. Tony Fisher, you and your lovely wife, Anne—who were gracious enough to come to my Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday, when I tried, to the best of my ability in accordance with my Catholic faith, to honor this truly noble Jew, Zachary Fisher, and to invite several thousand people to pray for him and for all of the family—I doubt that you would be offended if I offered you, for all of the Fisher family, perhaps, the one little gift that they don't have and would never expect to receive, a Cardinalatial yarmulke. May I leave this with you? Thank you.

THE HONORABLE RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI, THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Thank you. Distinguished guests, Governor Pataki, all of the distinguished members of the military, elected officials, in particular, Larry Fisher and members of the Fisher family and the family of the *Intrepid*, today we finally get to show our gratitude to Zach. We finally get to turn in some small way the

stream of generosity that has flowed only one way toward us to him, and to thank him and to let all of you in the Fisher family know how important he is to everyone in the City of New York and throughout the United States.

What is it that fueled Zach's extraordinary generosity, his extraordinary sense of obligation? I believe it was that Zachary Fisher understood in a very deep and profound sense that freedom is retained only through dedication, commitment and sacrifice, that the wonderful blessings that we have as Americans that make us the luckiest people on the face of the earth do not happen by accident. They happen because there are men and women who are willing to lay down their lives to create it, to protect it and to expand it. At the very core of his being, he understood our obligation to them and then expressed it in a way that most of us are incapable of doing because of the great love and generosity of spirit that he had.

One week ago today was Memorial Day here in New York City. We celebrated it as we do now every year because of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, on the *Intrepid*. Rather than being turned into a scrap heap, this ship stands as a proud tribute to the American military and as a very, very strong reminder of the price that we're going to be called on to pay, both now and in the future.

A personal note of debt of gratitude to Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher: Donna's father and my father-in-law, Lt. Commander Bob Kofnovec, served on this ship in the latter part of World War II. To see him return to this ship with his grandson and his granddaughter and explain to them about what it was like to return from a mission, what it was like to land with the slightly warped deck, to see him take them around and show them where he served in the noble cause of defending freedom and to pass on to them that feeling and that sense is a debt that I owe personally to Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher.

But I am not alone in owing that debt; thousands and thousands and thousands of other Americans owe that debt to him also. So for my wife, and for me, I say thank you, very, very much.

It's no surprise that Zach Fisher built this museum. He began building when he was very, very young. At 16 years old he began in the construction business. He and his brothers and family built much of what you see in the most magnificent skyline in the world. It is sometimes described as the eighth wonder of the world, except a wonder that is created by human hands. Zach's hands were one of the most significant in creating it.

Many, many people would have been more than justified in being satisfied with that contribution. Instead, after he made that contribution, enough to be placed in a very special place of honor among his fellow New Yorkers, Zach decided to give back even more to the men and women of our military to help to preserve and then to create this museum, to make certain that the men and women of our military understand that at times of greatest loss there are citizens that care about them.

Beyond what he's done for the military, I should also tell you that he includes in that family the men and women of our police department and the men and women of our fire department. When they have a loss, he is there to financially support them and to morally support them.

I believe it is not coincidental in some plan that exists. When Zach died the other day, within a few hours we lost Capt. Vincent

Fowler, who died in the line of duty in Queens fighting a fire to try to protect the lives of others. I bet somehow that Zach and Fire Captain Vincent Fowler—Capt. Fowler is to be buried tomorrow—are standing in heaven and they're looking down and they're saying thank you to each other, Zach saying thank you to Capt. Fowler for putting his life at risk to save others, and Capt. Fowler saying thank you for taking care of his wife and his three children who are left behind.

Zach Fisher wasn't an accident either. He is a product of this beautiful, strong and loving family. His generosity of spirit was not his alone, it is all of yours. As the Mayor of New York City, I thank you for what you've given us, the City of New York. As an American, I thank you for what you have given the men and women who pay the extra price. As a father, I particularly say thank you for what you've done for my children and my family. Thank you very much.

THE HONORABLE PETER F. VALLONE, THE
SPEAKER OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

I first had the great privilege of meeting Zachary Fisher more than a decade ago when he came to City hall looking for what I thought was a financial commitment. Can you imagine, Zachary Fisher looking for financial commitment?

I soon found out that what Zachary was looking for was for the great City of New York to become part of the great work of the *Intrepid*. Previous speakers referred to him as Mr. *Intrepid*. That has come to mean to me some very important attributes. He was a kind man. He was a truthful man. He was a just man and he was a peaceful man. He lived what the Prophet Isaiah said three thousands years ago, that some day kindness and truth shall meet, justice and peace shall kiss, peace shall spring out of the earth and justice shall look down from heaven.

This *Intrepid* is not a monument to war; this *Intrepid* is a monument to peace and to Zachary Fisher. Just as surely, some day, justice shall look down from heaven, you know and I know that Zachary Fisher is looking down upon all of us and saying, "Keep the faith; keep the peace."

THE HONORABLE ALAN G. HEVESI, THE
COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Thank you very much, Walter Cronkite, ladies and gentlemen. This is a celebration of a life and it is a period of incredible mourning for the passing of one of America's greatest citizens. I thank you all for being here; it is so important that you are here.

Arnold Fisher developed the theme: We are here in profound sadness, for me as well as many of you, a touch of anger that Zach is taken from us. Because as much as he gave, there was so much more to give.

But here was the quintessential New Yorker, he and his family building a business in the toughest competitive environment possible. They were rough, they were tough, they were uncompromising. They built a great business empire. They refused to suffer fools, Zach particularly, and they competed successfully.

And at the same time, Zach Fisher was one of the most caring, decent, compassionate, kindly persons imaginable and one of the sweetest people you'll ever want to meet. He never said no. All the charitable work, all the philanthropy, all the caring for the servicemen who stand between America and her people and values on the one side and evil on the other side, Zach was there for them.

For the families of servicemen and women who died, Zach was there for them. The

scholarships, the *Intrepid*, the Alzheimer's program, the Fisher houses, and so many other instances that we don't know about because they haven't been celebrated.

My wife, Carol, who loved Zachary dearly and who would be here now but she is recovering from surgery, was an administrator at Creedmor Psychiatric Hospital and at dinner one night was talking with Zachary about taking care of some of the most desperate people in the world, people who have no control over their own mental faculties. Zachary asked Carol what do they need more than anything else, in addition to their medical care, and she said, "Some respite from the campus of a psychiatric hospital, some ability to get to a ball game or to the theater, to get to a park." Three weeks later, six brand new vans to transport patients all over this magnificent city were provided by Zachary Fisher.

Zachary Fisher's life, however, is not just summed up by his philanthropy and his toughness and his caring but also an unspoken value that needs to be expressed: the profound value of love. As macho and as tough as this man was, and his family, what drove him was a sense of love, particularly for his family, especially for his beautiful wife, Elizabeth—expressed no more dramatically than in the last ten years during her illness—but for the entire family.

In a sense, I am representing another portion of that family, the friends of Zach Fisher, whom he brought into his circle as members of the family with the kind of caring and love and affection that is unprecedented. It is reflected in his decades long friendship for Michael Stern. It is reflected in his incredible caring and loving for Billy White—and one day, Billy, I will tell you about the number of times he spoke behind your back about who you were and who you were going to be—and about all the rest of us who he brought into the circle.

So we have lost a very extraordinary man, tough, rough, relentless, kind, compassionate, loyal, decent, loving, the sweetest man of all, a great friend, a great mentor, the greatest patriot in America, our dear friend, Zach Fisher. God has blessed Zach Fisher; God will bless Zach Fisher as he has blessed us by allowing us to know and to be with Zachary Fisher. Thank you all for being here.

A few years ago, a news crew followed Zach as he traveled the country on his mission of good will. They produced a snapshot in the life of a man who they named, and was aptly named, a patriot in the shadows. At this time, I ask you to join me sharing a memory of America's greatest patriot and our dear friend, Zach Fisher. Thank you.

THE HONORABLE CHARLES SCHUMER, UNITED
STATES SENATOR

Well, thank you very much, Walter. And like so many who have preceded me here, it is truly an honor to stand here and remember Zachary Fisher.

When the Founding Fathers had finished writing the Constitution, one of them was approached by a citizen who said, "What have you done?" And that Founding Father responded and said, "We have given you a democracy if you can keep it."

What was meant was that, in this brave new experiment that had never been tried before, were the people of America up to it? Would they be able to keep this democracy? The Founding Fathers wondered about that and they wondered about whether private citizens throughout the country could live up to the ideal that they had created.

Well, Zach Fisher was the apotheosis of the idea that the Founding Fathers wanted for the American citizen. Of course, as a family man, his dedication to his wife was something that they would have very much treasured. As a businessman, somebody who did good for himself and his family but also did good for a whole city by creating that great skyline and the office space that now employs and houses thousands, was also something that they envisioned.

But most of all, it was his volunteerism, his ability to step forward and go that extra mile that made him the citizen they very much wanted to be an American. It would have been easy for Zach, having been so successful in business, having had a loving and large family around him, to just sit back and relax, but he couldn't and wouldn't. His efforts on behalf of so many different charities were right there.

But most of all, it was his volunteerism on behalf of the military—what a combination—that distinguished him beyond any other American citizen that we have known. This museum that we stand on, again, signifies just that. It is both a monument to what happened in the past and to the lives that were risked over and over again.

But Zack had a special genius and he wanted it to be a vision for the future, so that this museum—which, the New York Times wrote, “Zachery Fisher willed into existence”—looks to the children. Every week there are tens of thousands of elementary and high school students who come here who may not have learned otherwise what had happened. There is vocational training. There are summer programs. He is teaching the young people; he is teaching them at this moment, even though he is no longer with us and looking down upon us, of how important it is to have a close link between the citizenry and the military. Teaching the children as we now watch, as we have our soldiers in harm's way overseas, how important it was and is and will be that sacrifices be made.

So, in short, if the George Washingtons and the Thomas Jeffersons and the James Madisons were looking down here on this room and, looking down on Zach Fisher's life, they would smile. He was just the American they wanted all of us to be.

THE HONORABLE GEORGE PATAKI, THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

When I was asked if I could be here this morning, my response was immediate: How could I not be here this morning? As all of us know, Zachary Fisher was always there. He was there for me and my family. He was there for New York and he's always been there for America.

On this solemn day, we pay tribute to one of the greatest Americans of our time, an American whose deeds outran his words, an American whose love of country knew no bounds. Zachary Fisher was a dear friend to all of us and on this day, our hearts—and, indeed, the hearts of men and women across America—are filled with sadness. But none of us can possibly feel the sense of loss that Elizabeth, Ginny and Harry feel today. To you and to Arnold and Richard, Anthony, Ken and the entire Fisher family, God bless you. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you. To Elizabeth, I know that little can be said to ease your pain but I hope your heart is warmed by the fond recollection of Tex McCrary, who described your years with Zachary with these words: “The Fisher story is a love story—love of country, love of the armed forces and love of each other.”

Zachary's actions say more about him than our words ever can, but it is appropriate that we join here today on this symbol of America's strength, for it was this symbol of strength and pride, pride in America's armed services, that Zachary devoted his life to renewing. The *Intrepid* is one of his many legacies, one of his many gifts to the people of this nation for generations to come.

I think Zachary would be proud to see us gathered here today on this great monument, for our presence here embodies the fulfillment of his vision which was to create a deep spirit of reverence and appreciation for our military institutions and, more importantly, for the men and women who make them great.

The philanthropic contributions that he, Larry and Elizabeth and the whole family bestowed upon this nation amount to tens of millions of dollars, but the depth of their compassion and generosity is best measured not by dollars but by your boundless love of America.

My wife, Libby, felt that love when she was with Zach for the opening of Fisher House in Albany, where military families will get the services and care they deserve. I felt that love of America right here on the *Intrepid* so many times, most memorably when Zachary and I presented Yitzhak Rabin with the Intrepid Freedom Award. Ten days later, Yitzhak Rabin was taken from us. Last year Zachary received the Medal of Freedom. It is a fitting tribute to one of our great patriots.

Zachary Fisher had a dream for America and for us. He fulfilled that dream. He will be sorely missed but his dream will live on in our memories and in his legacies and in the heart of a grateful nation that mourns his passing. God bless you.

MASTER SERGEANT AND MRS. GLYNN DAVIS,
USAF, FISHER HOUSE RESIDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Tena and I are honored today as just one of the more than 35,000 military families helped by Fisher House. I have been a Fisher House volunteer at Andrews Air Force Base for the past three years, and never dreamed that I would have to call on the services of the program I so deeply love. My story begins while on leave in Georgia in April.

My wife began having back pains and had to be rushed to the military hospital at Fort Gordon. Because of our unique situation, we were referred to the Medical College of Georgia in downtown Augusta. The doctor examining my wife turned to me and said, “Your wife is eight centimeters dilated and you are going to have a baby.” My heart started pounding; my hands began to shake. I could not hold back the tears. How could this be? My wife was barely six months into her pregnancy. The stress I was going through was almost too much to bear.

On the 21st of April, my wife gave birth to a 2-pound, 6-ounce, baby boy, who we named Noah. After spending the next two nights in a chair beside my wife, the hospital social worker asked about our plans after my wife's discharge. So far away from home, in a civilian hospital . . . Where would we stay? What would we do? Until this point, my thoughts were only on my son's health.

The social worker suggested the Fisher House at Fort Gordon. After calling and explaining my situation to Mr. Cruz, the Fisher House manager, he said, “You are welcome here at the Fisher House. Our doors are always open for you.”

After spending each day visiting our son, here was a place where I knew my wife and

I could rest. There was a phone at our bedside so we could call the hospital to check on our son's condition before we went to bed and first thing every morning. There was an answering machine and a computer with e-mail to receive messages of support from family, friends, and co-workers. There was a washer and dryer with soap that was donated, a kitchen to prepare our meals, and often food donated by caring people. This was just what the doctor ordered and relieved a major portion of the stress my wife and I were experiencing, “a true home away from home.” All of our needs were graciously met, and that allowed us to focus on Noah.

My story ends on a happy note. Our son was later medivacked to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. He now weighs over three and a half pounds, is doing well, and should be home very soon. Every day we thank God for my son, and for sending this world people like Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher.

We will truly miss Mr. Fisher. I know his spirit and generosity will continue to touch and bless the lives of military families for generations to come, and he will continue to live in our hearts. May God bless us all. Thank you.

THE HONORABLE RICHARD DANZIG, THE
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

I speak to you this morning on behalf of the President of the United States and Mrs. Clinton, the Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Cohen, and also, beyond that, on behalf of sailors and marines everywhere and, indeed, all members of all the services of the United States military who Zach loved so much.

They loved and admired him so much. You see this if you look closely. Beyond the bright, brave, red coats of the Drum and Bugle Corps, you will see some red eyes. There is real feeling in the military for Zach Fisher.

When I left Andrews Air Force Base this morning, I told the captain who was seeing me off where I was going. He said that he had been in a squadron in which two members had died in the line of duty. The next day, he said—the next day—the Fisher Foundation was there.

It was not so much, he said, the money; it was the caring—not so much the money, the caring. I think Bill White hit exactly the right note at the opening of this ceremony when he quoted Kahlil Gibran and said what really made Zach so special was not just his deeds, but the way in which he cared. He invested; he invested himself.

I think there is an image of giving that speaks of it in a spiritual and almost saintly way, that can make of it something ascetic, something self-denying and self-sacrificing. We tithe ourselves to give to others.

I really don't think that was Zach. Zach gave in a different kind of way. He gave in a way that I think of as loving. It wasn't at all self-abnegating, self-sacrificing. You look at that videotape—Zach wasn't an anonymous donor. He was right in the middle of everything, and we loved him for that.

That kind of giving translated into Zach putting his imprint on all of our lives and everything he did. He knew so many of us. He knew the managers of all those 28 Fisher Houses on a first name basis. He knew so many of the people in this room. He knew so many soldiers and sailors, airmen and marines. That kind of contact made the deeds not only so good but brought with them a kind of loving that I think was infectious, that caused everyone who was touched by it to start to do more themselves.

An account that I much liked was of a recipient of one of the bonds that Zach gave, one of those 113 children in the wake of the Beirut bombing. It came time to go to college at a university in North Carolina and he presented this \$10,000 bond to pay for his education. The person in charge of finances and scholarships was confused by it and asked where did it come from and how it fit into the financial aid picture and was referred back to the Fisher Foundation.

He spoke with Zach and then decided that, all things considered, that this student, in light of the example that Zach had set, should get financial aid and keep the bond. He told the student this. The student came back the next day and said, "Can I really do anything I want with this?" The finance director said, "Yes, you can," and feared that it was about to be spent on a car or some such.

The student said, "I want to give the money to my sister so she can get an education also." That is Zach and what he did and the influence he had on all of us. I think it ran further. I think it set for all of us an example of how to give, an example that—precisely because it isn't self-deprecating and self-effacing but instead was so warm and human—created for all of us an example that we could aspire to.

For Zach, giving wasn't some act that diminished you; giving was an act that increased you. It wasn't self-abnegating, it was self-fulfilling. I think for Zach it was like his relationships with his family. As he loved his brothers and his nephews, as he loved Elizabeth, that became a fulfillment for him. And he found in these other activities other forms of fulfillment, and we all saw it and wanted to become a part of it. In our relationship with Zach, we did become a part of it.

There is another realm of life which I think adopts this kind of approach and, in my mind, it is the military. We can talk about the military as a realm of sacrifice, as an arena in which people do heroic things at real cost to themselves. That is a correct picture, but there is another part to the picture and that is how rewarding it is, how richly fulfilling, how the sense of the worth of what you're doing, the sense of the mission, the sense of the intimacy and camaraderie of other people, builds a connection that, in the end, produces a life that is really worth living.

Many observations have been made about why Zach connected so meaningful with the military. I think Michael earlier correctly identified Zach's feelings of patriotism and his sense of how he, too, would have liked to have served in the military but for the brick-laying injury that he'd had as a young man. I think we understand that Elizabeth's performance in the USO and her coming back brought home to Zach a sense of how much the military did and how much civilians could do by working with the military.

But I think, above all, the relationship between Zach and the military was a natural because they are kindred souls, because there is a sense in both Zach and in our uniformed services of what it is to give, to give of yourself, that there are times and circumstances where sacrifices are made that ordinary people would regard as a cost.

But beyond that—beyond that is a sense of how richly we can connect with one another, what it means to relate to one another as though we were family. Zach and the military were a love affair waiting to happen and it was only appropriate and natural that the military took Zach to its heart as he took

them to his and that this love affair blossomed. At times when the military was less than fully appreciated by America—and at times, as well, when it was fully appreciated—Zach was there as a member of the family, as somebody who understood that kind of transcendent love, that deeper meaning of doing a higher thing, of having a sense of the most intimate kind of camaraderie.

So I feel now a great sense of loss in Zach's departure. I also feel a sense that he showed us the way. He showed us what it is not merely to give of your resources, but give of yourself and, in the end, how deeply, deeply rewarding that can be. He has drawn all of us into that and for that, Zach, I thank you and God bless you.

GENERAL HENRY SHELTON, USA, THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Today, we gather to celebrate the life of an incomparable man . . . a loving husband . . . a wonderful friend . . . and a great American.

Today, we celebrate the life of an admired man . . . a man who counted among his countless friends the men and women who wear the uniforms of our nation and their families.

Today, we celebrate the life of a gallant man . . . a man who considered his greatest blessing and crowning glory to be the love of the woman who was his wife, his partner, and his best friend for over half a century—Elizabeth.

Today, we honor a true giant among men. Will Rogers once said, "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand by on the curb and clap as they go by."

Today, we all have to stand on the curb and wave farewell . . . as a genuine American hero goes by.

Zach liked to say that he was born with naval aviation—in 1910. At that time, America was still a young power on the world stage. By the time he died, the automobile had replaced the horse and buggy, the aircraft carrier had replaced the battleship, supersonic jets had replaced biplanes, men had walked on the moon, and America stood tall as the world's predominant global power.

Some realities throughout his long life, however, never changed: the need for a strong defense, the need for compassion, and the need for hope.

Zach saw all of this and more, and so he threw his time, energy, and resources behind projects designed to improve: the lives of people who serve their nations and communities; the lives of people who give of themselves for the betterment of others; and the lives of people, suffering from incurable afflictions of the body and spirit.

Zach was, of course, a builder of rare accomplishment. His legacy, however, lies not in the buildings he built, but rather in the spirit of America he upheld.

I remember when I first heard about Zach Fisher. What struck me most was his love of boats and the sea. Now, a lot of us like boats . . . some folks like bass boats, some larger fishing boats, some yachts.

Not Zach! He went out and bought an aircraft carrier! And what a carrier he bought! the USS *Intrepid* . . . the "Fighting I" of Leyte Gulf, a ship synonymous with greatness, not unlike its benefactor—the man we honor today.

And this, the Intrepid Freedom Foundation, is the product of his vision. Zach Fisher saw beyond the rusting hulk of a ship that would soon become razor blades. Zach saw a living monument to freedom, to sacrifice, and to courage.

The ghosts of *Intrepid*—the fighting spirit of the men who served on this glorious ship—move about us today, reminding us that courage and commitment transcend generations.

The ghosts of *Intrepid*, today stand ready to claim their greatest captain.

When I last saw Zach, in February, he was struggling physically. But, typical of Zach, he brushed aside my questions about his health and he grilled me about my health! He was concerned about how I was holding up in Washington.

But above all else, he was most concerned about the troops and what I was doing to take care of them. And when Zach pointed the laser beam of his attention at you, you stood a little taller, and you made sure your facts were correct.

So, I told him the troops were doing well! This was no exaggeration, thanks in no small measure to the incredible generosity of the Fisher House Foundation, the Fisher Armed Services Foundation, and many other manifestations of Zach Fisher's love and concern.

The Fisher name is a watchword for caring, a symbol of patriotism, a true lamplight for thousands of young men and women who guard freedom's frontiers around the world.

Zachary Fisher spent a good portion of his life making certain that those who serve the nation in the dark and dangerous places around the globe were appreciated, loved, taken care of, and treated in a manner befitting their service and dedication to America.

Those who wear the uniforms of America's Armed Forces will forever be indebted to him.

We cannot forget this patriotic American—full of love for his country and full of concern for those who defend her.

We cannot forget this devoted husband—full of love for Elizabeth, the light of his long life.

We cannot forget this wonderful man, so full of greatness and humility, sought not glory for himself, but rather glory for America's fighting men and women.

And, as long as men and women go down to the sea in ships like the *Intrepid*, we shall not forget Zachary Fisher.

Samuel Johnson said, "It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives."

Zach Fisher lived life to the fullest.

And we are a better country, a richer people, and a stronger military for his life.

Like all of you, I am proud to have called Zachary Fisher my friend, and I will miss him greatly.

GENERAL COLIN L. POWELL, USA (RET.),
CHAIRMAN, AMERICA'S PROMISE, FORMER
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Elizabeth, members of the family, friends, there is sadness here and there is sorrow here today but there is also happiness and great joy as we celebrate Zach's life and as we reflect on the changing of the seasons.

A reading from Ecclesiastes:

"There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every affair under the heavens, a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot the plant, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to be far from embraces, a time to seek and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away, a time to mend and a time to sow, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a

time to hate, and a time of war and, finally, a time of peace."

The word of God, a tribute to our dear friend, Zachary; who meant so very, very much to us. Now may flights of angels take him to his rest.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to just thank all of those that took the time to pay tribute to this great American, one of the best friends probably that the military has ever had.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for his cooperation in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 46 which honors Zachary Fisher as an honorary veteran. His lifetime support of our military and veterans clearly justifies naming him as an honorary veteran.

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, Mr. Fisher was told he could not serve in the Armed Forces due to a serious knee injury sustained in a construction accident. Determined to do his part, Mr. Fisher used his expertise in construction to help the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers build coastal fortifications. His dedication to the Armed Services continued after the war. Over many decades, he lent his full support to the U.S. military and their families. Mr. Fisher established the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation to serve as a support agency for both military personnel and their families affected by service-related accidents. To date, hundreds of families from all branches of the armed services have benefited from this foundation's support. In addition, the Fisher Armed Services Foundation provides educational scholarship funds to Armed Services personnel and their families. Since 1987, more than 700 students have received scholarships of between \$500 and \$2,500, allowing them to pursue education opportunities which otherwise would not have been possible.

Moreover, in 1990, Mr. Fisher established the Fisher House Program. Under this program he dedicated more than \$15 million for the construction of temporary homes for the families of military personnel receiving care at major military treatment facilities and VA Medical Centers. The houses provide support for families as they serve as a "home away from home." One of these houses is located in my district at Fort Bliss. The presence of a Fisher House in El Paso, and throughout military bases around the country, help ease the minds of America's finest and their families during times of illness.

Mr. Fisher, as exemplified by these philanthropic efforts on behalf of our Nation's veteran's and military, established himself as one of our most dedicated patriots. Through these charitable acts, and numerous others in various civic and community efforts, he set a tremendous example for all Americans to follow. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to honor Zachary Fisher by unanimously supporting H.J. Res. 46.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the mo-

tion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 46.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ESPIONAGE AND ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN FINANCING THAT HAVE BROUGHT INTO QUESTION LOYALTY AND PROBITY OF AMERICANS OF ASIAN ANCESTRY

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 124) expressing the sense of the Congress relating to recent allegations of espionage and illegal campaign financing that have brought into question the loyalty and probity of Americans of Asian ancestry, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object, I take this time for the purpose of asking the gentleman to explain the purpose of his request.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WU. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Today, the House considers H. Con. Res. 124, which recognizes the contributions of Asian Americans to American culture and society, and condemns all forms of discrimination and bias against Asian Americans. This resolution has the bipartisan support of 75 cosponsors and was introduced by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) on May 27, 1999.

It expresses the sense of Congress that recent allegations of espionage and illegal campaign financing against certain Asian Americans have brought into question the loyalty and probity of all Americans of Asian ancestry. In an effort to counter this stereotypical view as one of ignorance based on generalizations about people of different ethnic backgrounds, it is the sense of Congress that no American should generalize or stereotype the action of an individual to be representative of an entire group.

The resolution calls upon the Attorney General, the Secretary of Energy, and the Commissioner of the Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission to vigorously investigate and enforce all allegations of discrimination in public and private workplaces.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject matter of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would just like to say that I was not born in America. At the age of 6½ years, I came to America with my family because my parents wanted to start a new life and my father wanted to pursue a graduate education in engineering. I was lucky. My parents pushed me hard to work in school, and I did. I got a good education, considered becoming a physician or a scientist, but went on to law school and began my own law practice in Portland, Oregon.

At our law firm, Cohen & Wu, and we always like to say "Only in America, Cohen & Wu," we focus primarily on high technology and international trade. I traveled overseas frequently for business, and I also spent 6 years negotiating a sister city relationship between my hometown of Portland, Oregon, and my ancestral home of Suzhou, China. Closer to home, I practiced intellectual property law. I worked closely with startup technology firms and worked hands-on with some of the most cutting-edge technologies in the world.

Mr. Speaker, America's greatest strength is that it is an open society, where each citizen has the freedom to pursue his or her dream. Every citizen, every American. Some become doctors or businessmen, others become teachers or scientists, some may also become Members of Congress. I am here in this chamber today because those who came before us fought hard for that freedom and for our open society, and I want to do everything in my power to preserve that freedom and open society for those who come after us.

The events surrounding the Los Alamos controversy and the campaign finance scandals have cast two dark shadows. One is a shadow on our national security; the other is a shadow on the American dream, on our open society of equal opportunity. Had the current political climate existed when I was traveling internationally, when I was quoting high-tech startups in Oregon, I would not have had my successes in the private sector, nor would I be in Congress today.

The danger we face today is twofold: first, of course, is national security, and we must work hard to ensure that